(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by Government to ensure statellite launch market is not utilized for intelligence activities against India and its friendly countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 23rd April 2007, India's Polar Satellite Laucnh Vehicle, PSLV-C-8, successfully launched the AGILE satellite belonging to Italian Space Agency, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Subsequently, on 21st January 2008, the 300 kg Israeli Satellite (TECSAR) was launched by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C10. Both the launches were executed under a commerical contract with ANTRIX corporation.

(c) The launch services contract ensures that the customer satellite is meant purely for peaceful purposes.

Appearance of UFO type object

304. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a UFO type bright oval shape object with crimson rays was seen for about three minutes in the sky over Jaunpur District of Uttar Pradesh in night of 4-5 January 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether scientists have tried to establish facts about this object;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is not aware of any such event.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e)

Findings of survey by NSSO

†305. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the survey made by National sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and its latest report submitted in relation to national-average of povery, unemployment, per capita income, per capita consumption, availability of durinking water, education, health and crime, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of people living below poverty line in India is more than its neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducted surveys to collect data on employment & unemployment, consumption expenditure, availability of drinking water facility, education and health during their 60th and 61st Rounds. State wise details on some of the indicators are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.